

hockey team and to make them competitive with the best in the land.

Dave's special skills in dealing with constituents and their problems and his deep sense of compassion served the people of the Third District of Minnesota very, very well. His friendly ways and relentless pursuit of solving problems helped literally hundreds and hundreds of Minnesota people.

Another area in which Dave shined was working with people with disabilities. It is a major emphasis in our office, and Dave organized many meetings for people with disabilities to listen to their concerns and to convey those concerns back here to Washington.

Dave also knew every member of the police departments in the Third District by their first name and worked with me on crime legislation. He was always there when I was back in the district, a wonderful adviser and trusted friend.

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Mr. Speaker, in one of the most touching eulogies I have ever heard, Dave's father-in-law put it best when he said, "Dave told me something after his cancer was diagnosed that I will never forget. He turned to me and said, 'You know, Jim, relationships are the most important thing in life.'"

Dave, speaking for all of us in our office, let me say we could not agree with you more. We will treasure our very special relationship with you forever. We love you, Dave. We are devastated by your passing. We will miss you a lot, but your special spirit will be with us every day for the rest of our lives. We will never forget the lessons you taught us, Dave, nor the inspiration you gave us.

Dave Hetland, you will live forever in our hearts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL-LARD). Our hearts and prayers go out to Dave Hetland and his family and friends.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HANSEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND DEBT LIMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is hard to follow a moving tribute, and certainly one would want to recognize the great service of a very fine individual.

This day, however, brings a great deal of concern to me. It has been a hard day and a long day. Particularly it relates to the responsibilities of the

U.S. Congress in making sure that we are responsible to the American people. We are charged now, having not been able to pass under the leadership of the Republican majority, the appropriations bills, we are now faced with the desire and the responsibility to promote and pass a continuing resolution that would, one, lift the debt ceiling but allow, most of all, the proper negotiation in order to provide the correct funding for projects and programs and Government responsibilities.

I am willing to stay here tomorrow on Veterans Day in order to be able to ensure that the documents sent to the U.S. Senate but as well the document that ultimately will go to the President will be one that can be signed. I am well aware, as we are on the eve of Veterans Day, that, if that does not occur, we may have some time around Christmas the biggest nongift to the American public, for we may deny our senior citizens their Medicare benefits. We may deny children who are recently immunized their Medicaid benefits. Veterans, whom we celebrate tomorrow, may not receive their veterans benefits. Hard-working Federal employees throughout this Nation will find the doors locked and the services that they render no more.

Interestingly enough, in terms of the discussion on the debt ceiling, this Republican Congress has raised it many times. Now there is some big debate about how, where, and why and a refusal to extend this process for 30 days after it gets on the President's desk, a motion to recommit that was presented on this floor today, not so much partisan or to get one upmanship, but simply to allow us in a reasoned but rushed manner, because it is rushed, it is 30 days after the President gets it, to look at these issues of do we really want, as has been proposed by the Republicans, to increase the premiums on Medicare and part B.

Do we want to do that rather than leaving it at the 25-percent portion versus the 31.5-percent portion that is now being proposed in this bill that is not streamlined to deal with the issue at hand but bagged, if you will, with increasing the premium, with a regulatory bill that is 122 pages tacked on.

Reasoned portions of that bill could be addressed in a bipartisan way by this House. Yet, we have tacked onto this particular legislation dealing with the crisis at hand a bill that the Senate has not even dealt with, never passed a regulatory reform bill. And we have grabbed bits and pieces from that bill, unpassed by the Senate, and tacked it on this legislation now dealing with the crisis that we face, 122 pages, obviously not reviewed in a bipartisan manner by this Congress.

Then we wanted to deal with the habeas corpus matter. Rather than addressing that where it could be heard in a fair presentation of the issue, for no one knows and hopes that they are never incarcerated and never finds themselves in that capacity, but I do

believe that Americans applaud the right to seek a redress of grievances. It is important that, if we have the opportunity to seek a redress of grievances, that hasty and frivolous legislation attached to this bill dealing with the debt ceiling and as well the opportunity to continue to pay the Government's bills so that we can do our jobs. How wrong we are to not be focused on the main issue.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will ultimately get a streamlined bill to the President, sit down at the table of reason and confront ourselves on behalf of the American people to fund appropriately this Government on behalf of all Americans.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak for just a moment about the defense authorization conference report which we hope will be reported from the conference this evening. Last year Republicans made a treaty with the American people. In effect, we said that, if Republicans are put in charge of Congress, we would turn things around. We would not let Washington operate as it had in the past, and the Republican Contract With America was a line in the sand saying, enough is enough.

One of the key components of the contract was the National Security Revitalization Act. This act was a commitment to the men and women in uniform that Congress would not allow a return to a hollow military force like we had in the 1970's. The National Security Revitalization Act made a commitment to stop the 10-year slide in defense funding. That is right. Every year for the last 10 years, we spend less in real dollars than we did the year before.

The specific implementation of that commitment is contained in the 1996 defense authorization bill. I am happy to hear that we are nearing final agreement with our Senate colleagues on a final bill. This bill has been a long time in the making. In fact, there are skeptics who thought we may not be able to produce an authorization bill at all.

Those skeptics were wrong. Soon we will be able to bring a bill to the floor which represents a watershed in defense funding.

Contained in the bill, I believe, are some key elements, some things that are very, very important to the new threat that we face today.

For example, with regard to the quality of life of our military men and women, we provide for a pay raise, something that is much needed and overdue. We have also provided for a new housing initiative which adds \$450 million, making a total of about \$1.5 billion in spending which will go to